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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2.1 of the Provisional Agenda

Fourteenth Regular Session

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PREPARATION OF *THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The mandate of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) covers all components of biodiversity for food and agriculture. To implement its broad work programme and to achieve its objectives through a planned and staged approach, the Commission adopted the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW).[1] One of the main milestones of the MYPOW is the presentation of the first report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (the Report) to the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session. In adopting its MYPOW, the Commission also agreed to consider key issues in the preparation of the Report at its Fourteenth Regular Session.

2. At its Thirteenth Regular Session, the Commission considered a concept note prepared to facilitate discussion on the preparation of the Report.[2] Commission Members agreed to provide comments on the concept note to the Secretary of the Commission, and invited other countries and international organizations also to review and provide comments on the concept note.[3] The inputs received from countries, international organizations and others have been taken into account in preparing this document.

3. The purpose of this document is to facilitate further discussion on the preparation of the Report. Section II of the document outlines the proposed goal and objectives of the Report, while Section III describes some of its key features. The suggested scope and content of the Report is presented in Section IV, a preparation process in Section V, and the extra-budgetary resource requirements in Section VI. Section VII contains the guidance sought from the Commission.

II. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT

4. The goal of the Report is to provide a comprehensive description of the state of conservation and use of the world's biodiversity for food and agriculture and of its current and potential contributions to human well-being and the maintenance of a healthy planet. The objectives of the Report are to:

- describe the current contributions made by biodiversity for food and agriculture to food security and nutrition, sustainable production and the provision of ecosystem services;
- identify ways of improving the use of biodiversity for food and agriculture so as to support sustainable intensification and help realize the multiple benefits obtained from agriculture; and
- improve recognition of the continuing role of farmers, pastoralists, forest dwellers and fisher-folk around the world in the maintenance of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and of the contribution that it makes to their livelihoods.

5. The Commission's Strategic Plan 2010–2017 states that biodiversity for food and agriculture is among the earth's most important resources. Crops, livestock, aquatic organisms, forest trees, micro-organisms and invertebrates – thousands of species and their genetic variability – make up the web of biodiversity that the world's food supply depends on. Biodiversity for food and agriculture contributes to food and nutrition security and sustainable livelihoods and underpins natural potential to adapt to changes in socio-economic and environmental conditions caused by factors such as population growth, changing nutritional needs and climate change.[4]

6. The Report will provide the first integrated global assessment and overall synthesis of the genetic resources that contribute to biodiversity for food and agriculture. It will go far beyond the scope of other assessments prepared under the aegis of the Commission that targeted specific sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Report will contribute to the development of policy measures that take into account both the linkages between the different sectors of genetic resources

[1] CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 88–94.
[2] CGRFA-13/11/Inf. 23.
[3] CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 110.
[4] CGRFA-14/13/25.

for food and agriculture and wider perspectives on biodiversity conservation and that can improve the scientific basis of decision-making on the integrated management and use of genetic resources, help resource-allocation decisions, support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of relevant Aichi Targets, and improve communication about, and the visibility of, biodiversity for food and agriculture.

7. Through synthesis of sectorial reports and additional information, the Report will seek to provide an integrated view of the overall contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to global food security and nutrition and to the livelihoods and well-being of rural communities. The Report will provide an opportunity to identify actions that can improve the management and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture at the local, national, regional and international levels. In particular, it will contribute to strengthening national programmes, building on the progress made in recent years that has supported management and use of genetic resources on a sectorial basis. The preparation and release of the Report will help ensure that lessons learned and best practices in the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture are shared among countries and among sectors at national and regional levels, resulting in new strategic policy developments for biodiversity for food and agriculture. In this respect, the Report will assist the Commission in its work.

8. The Report will also contribute to FAO's Strategic Objective 2 *Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner*, which recognizes the importance of ecosystem services and biodiversity in supporting sustainability in agricultural production systems. Strategic Objective 2 also highlights the need to better understand and apply the concepts of sustainability in the agricultural sector to increase the provision of goods and services. More research needs to be done on the roles that ecosystem services can play in improving agricultural production systems and on where possible "tipping points" in ecosystem functions may occur.

9. The Report will also serve as a major milestone in the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. It will provide valuable information on progress towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).[5] The preparation and release of the Report will provide a significant opportunity to bring together the agriculture and environment communities and engage the widest possible sections of society around the importance of the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. The Report will also be brought to the attention of other relevant international processes such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

III. FEATURES OF THE REPORT

10. The Report will build on and complement global assessments of genetic resources undertaken under the guidance of the Commission (i.e. the sectorial State of the World reports on genetic resources). It will bring together the information and conclusions of these assessments, presenting a global overview of the combined state of these resources. It will also compile information on other components of biodiversity for food and agriculture that is not included in the sectorial assessments, including information on invertebrates and micro-organisms. In addressing all biodiversity for food and agriculture, the Report will therefore go beyond the sectorial assessments of genetic resources, to include what is known about the state of such key areas as soil biodiversity and pollinators and pollination services. The Report will also integrate information provided for other relevant assessments such as the FAO State of Land and Water Resources (SOLAW) report, the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the Global Forest Resources Assessment. Using all the available information, the Report will aim to provide a comparative analysis that helps identify synergies, inter-linkages and trade-offs between all the different sectors and components of food and agriculture so as to ensure that it both integrates and adds to the findings of other global reports. As the first report of this nature ever prepared, the Report's findings will be preliminary, and even incomplete, in a number

[5] See: www.cbd.int/sp/targets/

of areas. However, it will provide an important baseline for further work and a basis for developing improved ways of reporting on biodiversity for food and agriculture in the future.

11. Important features of the Report will include the compilation of information on the contributions of genetic resources to the delivery of ecosystem services and to the implementation of the ecosystem approach. In this respect, the sectorial reports will provide important information, even if they are uneven in their treatment of the contribution of genetic resources to ecosystem services and lack information on the key roles played by other components of biodiversity for food and agriculture. The information extracted from the different sectorial reports and from other sources, will allow an integrated picture to be developed of the contributions of genetic resources to ecosystem functioning. It will also help identify the opportunities that exist for biodiversity for food and agriculture to make an increased contribution to the provision of ecosystem services and to sustainability.

12. An integrated assessment of the sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and of its contribution to sustainable production intensification will be a key feature of the Report. This will include compiling information on the sustainable use of genetic resources, reporting on the use of biodiversity for food and agriculture in sustainable intensification programmes, and seeking information on the extent to which areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably. In this way, the Report will provide a significant contribution to the evaluation of progress made towards achieving relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, particularly Targets 6, 7 and 13.[6]

IV. SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE REPORT

13. The Report will seek to answer the following questions:

a) What is the current status of biodiversity conservation and its use for food security and nutrition, ecosystem functioning and sustainability?

b) What trends can be identified in the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and in the effects of major drivers of change?

c) How can conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture be improved and its contributions to food and nutrition security, ecosystem functioning, sustainability and improving the livelihoods of farmers, pastoralists, forest dwellers and fisher folk be enhanced?

14. In order to answer these questions, the Report will provide information on: the roles and values of biodiversity for food and agriculture in relation to, *inter alia*, food and nutrition security and sustainable production; the key drivers of change; the status and trends of biodiversity for food and agriculture; the state of use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and its contribution to ecosystem functioning, ecosystem services and sustainability within the framework of an ecosystem approach; and the current state of interventions on conservation and use, including the state of policies, resource availability, capacity, and available knowledge. It will provide an analysis of actions that can help secure improved conservation and use, now and in the future. The overall structure of the Report and an indication of its expected contents are provided in Appendix 1.

[6] Target 6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
Target 13. By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

15. Certain subject areas to be covered by the Report are likely to be best addressed through thematic studies. They include subjects that benefit from an integrated analysis based on expert knowledge, are of a global nature, involve a review of the state of available knowledge, and for which there is insufficient country information available at this stage. An indicative list of possible topics for thematic studies could include: the state of knowledge of economic valuation of biodiversity for food and agriculture; the contribution of genetic diversity to regulating and supporting ecosystem services; biodiversity for food and agriculture and health and nutrition; the contributions of biodiversity for food and agriculture to disaster response and preparedness; and the contributions of micro-organism and invertebrate diversity to ecosystem health.

V. THE PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE REPORT

16. The information used to prepare the Report will be obtained firstly from the different sectorial reports and from the processes of updating these. The preparation and updating processes for sectorial reports have different time frames and reflect the characteristics of the different sectors with respect to the information requested. The preparation of the Report will need to take these factors into account. On a limited set of key topics, country reports can provide information on aspects of biodiversity for food and agriculture not covered by sectorial reports. Such information would also support the analysis of linkages, synergies and trade-offs associated with the maintenance and use of different components of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Preliminary draft guidelines for the preparation of country reports are provided in document CGRFA-14/13/Inf.23 These guidelines will be further developed following a consultation process with experts that will help to ensure that the guidelines are realistic and practical. Additional information will also be obtained from a range of sources, particularly relevant global information systems and databases.

17. The proposed process for preparing the Report takes account of experience gained during the preparation of the sectorial reports. The following steps are proposed (a chart outlining the proposed timetable is included in Appendix II):

- At its Fourteenth Regular Session, the Commission provides guidance on the preparation process, invites international organizations to contribute to the preparatory process and requests donors to make available the extra-budgetary resources needed for the preparation of the Report;
- Countries identify national focal points to support the preparation of the Report;
- Guidelines for the preparation of country reports are finalized;
- Country reports are prepared and submitted;
- Thematic studies are prepared by experts;
- The draft Report is prepared by FAO;
- Regional consultations take place on the draft Report;
- A consultative review process, including external experts, is undertaken;
- The Report is revised based on the reviews and consultations;
- The Report is presented at the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session.

18. The preparation of the Report and its subsequent wide dissemination will require an effective communication strategy. This strategy would aim to stimulate participation in the preparation of the Report among different stakeholder groups and would promote the widest possible awareness and consideration of the findings of the Report.

VI. EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

19. Appropriate financial and human resources are necessary in order to ensure timely production of the report. In addition to funds provided by regular programme extra budgetary resources will be needed. An indicative estimation of extra-budgetary resource requirements for the overall process of preparing the Report is provided in Appendix III of the current document, with the extra-budgetary resource requirements shown to be US$3 950 000. This amount is required in order to support the full

participation of developing countries in the process, including assistance in the preparation of country reports, convening of national consultations and workshops, and support for participation at regional meetings. Extra-budgetary resources are also required to hire consultants, conduct expert meetings, prepare thematic studies, organize regional meetings, and to undertake reviews of the first draft of the Report.

VII. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

20. The Commission may wish to:

i. Request FAO to prepare *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* for the consideration of the Commission at its Sixteenth Regular Session;

ii. Agree that the process for preparing *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* will involve information from country reports as well as from thematic studies, reports from international organizations and inputs from other relevant stakeholders;

iii. Invite countries to officially nominate a National Focal Point to lead the preparation of country reports, and to submit this nomination to the Secretary of the Commission by November 2013;

iv. Request FAO to finalize the draft guidelines for country reports by November 2013;

v. Endorse the proposed structure and content of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* provided in Appendix I to this document;

vi. Agree to the proposed timetable provided in Appendix II;

vii. Invite relevant international and regional organizations to participate in the process of preparing *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*;

viii. Appeal to donors to provide the financial resources required to support the preparation of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, taking note of the extra-budgetary resource requirements indicated in Appendix III,; and

ix. Request its Secretary to explore ways and means of ensuring that the Report and its preparation contribute fully to other relevant international processes.

APPENDIX I

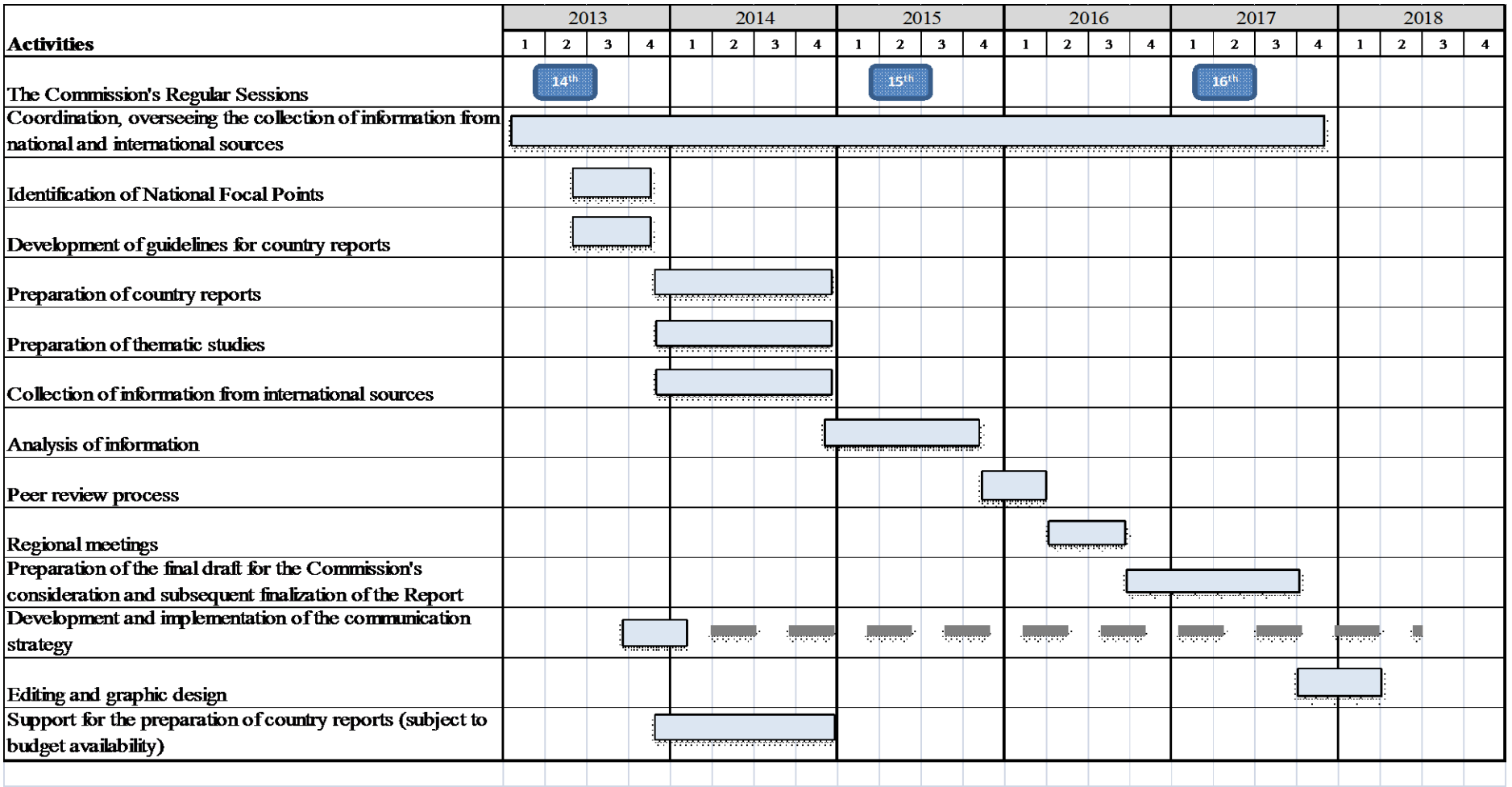
PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE REPORT

Chapter title	Scope of chapter and indicative contents
1. Introduction	An introduction to the Report and its scope, including: • The nature, roles and values of biodiversity for food and agriculture; • The relationship of biodiversity for food and agriculture to food and nutrition security, sustainable production and rural development (including economic, social and cultural dimensions); • Ecosystem perspectives (ecosystem services and functions and the ecosystem approach); • International and national interdependencies in the use of genetic resources.
2. Drivers and change	The effect of different drivers and stressors on the extent and availability of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including discussions of future expectations and the effects of: • Population growth; • Changing social and economic circumstances and relationships; • Changes in land use and land management, habitat destruction and over-exploitation; • Climate change; • The impacts of natural disasters. Possible future developments and changes over the next few decades.
3. The current status and trends of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Integrated assessments of the state of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including: • A synthesized assessment of plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources; • Assessment of the state of other components of biodiversity for food and agriculture – micro-organisms, invertebrates and other biodiversity present in agricultural landscapes. Comparative analyses of differences and similarities, synergies, inter-linkages and trade-offs between sectors and other components of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Assessment of major gaps and needs

4. The state of use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	An assessment and analysis of the overall state of the sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture Assessment of the use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and its contributions to agricultural production, to ecosystem services and function, and to sustainability, including: • Use of biodiversity for food and agriculture to increase productivity, improve food security and nutrition, and reduce rural poverty; • Contributions of biodiversity for food and agriculture to specific supporting and regulating ecosystem services; • Contributions of biodiversity for food and agriculture to sustainability, resilience and sustainable intensification. Assessment of major gaps and needs.
5. The state of interventions in the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Assessment and analysis of international, national and local interventions and activities that support conservation and use, including: • National programmes and policies that support conservation and sustainable use; • National programmes and policies that support ecosystem services and the ecosystem approach; • Local and informal-sector initiatives; • Availability of capacity and resources; • The state of the science of the management and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture; • International and regional policies, legal frameworks and collaboration. Assessment of major gaps and needs.
6. Future agendas for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture: helping to secure the multiple benefits of agriculture	An assessment and analysis of actions that can help secure improved conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and of future opportunities for enhancing the contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to food and nutrition security and to eliminating rural poverty, including: • Ways of strengthening the contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to secure the multiple benefits of agriculture, including food and nutrition security, rural development, sustainability, sustainable intensification and resilience; • Ways of improving recognition of, and support for, the roles and contributions of women; • Actions that will contribute to the UN Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and to achieving the Aichi Targets and that will link to related processes undertaken through IPBES and the CBD. An assessment of future needs with respect to policies and legal arrangements, economic frameworks, knowledge creation, capacity development and collaboration. The Commission's future contributions to improving the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture.

APPENDIX II

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT



APPENDIX III

COST ESTIMATES FOR EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Items	**Calculation**	**Purpose and notes**	**Cost in US$**
Professional staff and consultancy costs	24 months P4 2 consultants 12 months	Professional staff and consultants to oversee the collection, analysis and synthesis of information and to draft the report	525 000
Staff costs	12 months General Service staff	General Service staff to provide administrative support	105 000
Development of guidelines for the preparation of country reports	Experts fees, meeting costs	Consultation process with experts to finalize guidelines for the preparation of country reports	50 000
Thematic studies	10 studies @ US$40 000/study	To support development of thematic studies and other background material for the Report	400 000
Regional meetings	5 meetings @ US$100 000/meeting	Meetings to review country reports, consider regional issues and identify priority needs	500 000
Communication strategy	Consultants and production of leaflets, web site, etc.	Development and implementation of the communication strategy to facilitate dissemination of the main findings of the Report	70 000
Production of the Report	Editing, graphic design, translation and publishing	Finalization and publication of the Report	300 000
Support for country reports	Approximately 100 countries @ US$20 000/country	Support for the preparation of country reports	2 000 000
Grand total			**3 950 000**